

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 3307

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TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SIXTH AND FINAL

PLENARY OF SECOND ROUND

REF: (A) ATHENS 3262 (B) ATHENS 3276

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN GREEK CHANGES IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, CALOGERAS RESPONDED TO THE US PRESENTATION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SECOND ROUND, STRESSING THAT THE GREEK SIDE STILL WAS INTERESTED IN TERMINATING TATOI, ALTHOUGH NOT INSISTING ON MENTION OF IT IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE GREEK SIDE WAS STILL STUDYING THE US DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT TO NAC. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF THE SECOND ROUND MET AT 1100 ON APR 29. AMB CALOGERAS ADDRESSED THE DRAFT

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JOINT STATEMENT IN WHICH THE GREEK SIDE WISHED TO MAKE

SEVERAL CHANGES. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE TEXT AND ON ITS RELEASE AT 1200 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME AND 7PM ATHENS TIME ON APRIL 29. (SEE REF B).

2. CALOGERAS EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE DETAILED WORK THAT HAD BEEN DONE IN THE SECOND ROUND. HE THANKED MIN STEARNS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SECOND ROUND WHICH THE LATTER HAD PRESENTED IN THE PRECEDING PLENARY SESSION. COMMENTING ON THE VARIOUS TOPICS COVERED BY STEARNS, CALOGERAS: (A) STATED HIS HOPE THAT AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE OF THE US THE GREEKS WOULD HAVE US AGREEMENT ON CLOSING THE TATOI SITE. ALTHOUGH THE GREEK SIDE HAD NOT INSISTED ON MENTIONING VARIBOBI (TATOI) IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, IT STILL WISHED TO HEAR FROM THE US ON THIS SUBJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; (B) AGREED THAT THE SUBGROUP WORK ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS HAD CLARIFIED MATTERS IN A VERY SATISFACTORY MANNER, GIVING GREEK TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF CLOSER COLLABORATION IN THIS FIELD, CONCERNING WHICH THE GREEK SIDE WAS EXPECTING FURTHER REACTION FROM THE US; (C) EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT THE UNDERSTANDING ACHIEVED BY THE SOFA SUBGROUP, AND AGAIN, HE ANTICIPATED FURTHER RESULT FROM THE US SIDE WHEN DRAFTS WERE EXCHANGED; (D) WAS PLEASED THAT THE HELLENIKON SUBGROUP HAD REACHED A STAGE WHERE IN SUBSEQUENT DAYS OR WEEKS IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO SEE THE OUTLINES OF A FINAL SOLUTION, BUT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FIRST TO IDENTIFY THE ESSENTIAL US FACILITIES ON AN EXPANDED GREEK BASE AT HELLENIKON; (E) STRESSED THAT THE TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING WAS A VERY DEFINITE DECISION INVOLVING EVERYTHING ABOUT THESE ACTIVITIES, AND WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED TO BE REACHED, EMPHASIZED THE GREEK VIEW THAT THE DECISION TO TERMINATE HOMEPORTING WOULD RESULT IN A COMPLETE TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT; (F) STATED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE US RESPONSIBILITY IN THE COMPLEX MATTER OF WORLD BALANCE OF FORCES WHICH, HOWEVER, DID NOT ALTER THE GREEK NEED FOR A NEW AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE EXISTING MOSAIC.

3. CALOGERAS STATED HE WAS NOT COMPETENT TO ADDRESS THE SECRET

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SUBJECT OF RESTRICTIONS ON US OPERATIONS UNDER EXISTING AGREEMENTS, NOTABLY ON SHIP VISITS, AS THEY WENT BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. HE STATED THAT THE GREEK SIDE WOULD STUDY THE US DRAFT NATO COMMUNIQUE AND BE IN TOUCH WITHIN THE FOLLOWING FEW DAYS. MUTUAL EXPRESSIONS OF APPRECIATION WERE EXCHANGED FOR THE FLEXIBILITY, UNDERSTANDING AND COURTESY BOTH SIDES HAD SHOWN DURING THE TALKS. CALOGERAS THEN ASKED FOR

AGREEMENT ON THE TERMINATION OF ROUND II.

4. STEARNS AGREED AND NOTED THAT THE US TEAM WOULD CONTINUE TO ELICIT A RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON ON TATOI. HE STATED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IN MANY AREAS AND SHOULD NOW BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF DETAIL AS THEY AROSE. STEARNS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE RESTRICTIONS ON US OPERATIONS IN GREECE WERE NOT THE SUBJECT OF ROUND II NEGOTIATIONS, THEY RELATED TO THE STRUCTURE OF COOPERATION WHICH WE HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS. THE US SIDE CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME THESE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE LIFTED. THE US AWAITED THE GREEK REACTION TO THE NATO COMMUNIQUE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE COMMON GROUND FROM WHICH BOTH SIDES COULD PROPERLY INFORM THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. IN GREEK, STEARNS THEN THANKED THE GREEK DELEGATION AND HOPED THAT A CONTINUING FEELING OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT WOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS.

5. IN A PRIVATE DISCUSSION DURING THE PLENARY SESSION, CALOGERAS AND STEARNS DISCUSSED THE RESIDUAL VALUE OF PROPERTY WHICH MIGHT BE RELEASED BY THE US AS A RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT CALOGERAS PREFERRED THAT THE MATTER NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THE PLENARY, AS IT RAISED A RANGE OF COMPLICATED FINANCIAL ISSUES. HE FELT THAT THE DRAFT LETTER PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED BY THE US TEAM WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE STAFFING. CALOGERAS AND STEARNS AGREED THAT FINANCIAL MATTERS, INCLUDING RESIDUAL VALUE, WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT DURING A BRIEF DISCUSSION IN YESTERDAYS PLENARY CONCERNING THE WORDING OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, STEARNS IDENTIFIED THE REASON FOR THE US INSISTENCE ON THE TERM "AT GREEK REQUEST,"

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REFERRING TO ELEFSIS AND OTHER FACILITIES, WAS RELATED TO THE POSSIBLE NEED TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE OF FORCE MAJEURE TO THE TERMINATION OF SEVERAL LEASES. CALOGERAS AGREED THAT OBVIOUSLY THE TERM "AT GREEK REQUEST" DID SHOW FORCE MAJEURE.)
KUBISCH

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